

By: Luna

H.R. No. 111

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The District Judges of Nueces County, the District
2 Attorney of Nueces County, and the Department of Community
3 Supervision of Nueces County recognized that an alternative
4 approach needed to be implemented with regard to defendants
5 arrested for controlled substances because substance abuse
6 offenders are likely to re-offend without effective substance abuse
7 treatment; and

8 WHEREAS, The Texas Legislature has recognized the
9 effectiveness of Drug or Divert Courts by mandating their creation
10 in all counties with a population of 500,000 or more; and

11 WHEREAS, Regardless of the fact that Nueces County has a
12 population of less than 500,000, the judges, district attorney, and
13 probation department of Nueces County moved to establish a Drug
14 Court, and the Nueces County Divert Court started in February 2004;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The Divert Court operates a Court-supervised drug
17 treatment program requiring offenders to complete a rigorous,
18 three-phase, year-long program to learn of and deal with their
19 addictions; participants are required to attend treatment sessions
20 two to three times a week, meet with the probation department once a
21 week, submit to random drug testing on a weekly basis, and make
22 weekly Court appearances where consequences for digressions are
23 sure and immediate; and

24 WHEREAS, Participants who complete this demanding program

1 are not only rewarded with dismissal of all criminal charges but
2 with the satisfaction of having conquered their addiction; and

3 WHEREAS, Many individuals are responsible for the
4 implementation of the Divert Court, including the District Judges
5 of Nueces County, the Directors and Officers of the Department of
6 Community Supervision, District Attorney Carlos Valdez, and Judge
7 Sandra L. Watts, presiding Judge of the Divert Court; and

8 WHEREAS, The leaders of Nueces County have committed
9 themselves to helping and rehabilitating criminal offenders who
10 suffer from drug addiction; their efforts not only benefit the
11 offenders but also the criminal justice system and taxpayers of
12 Nueces County, and they are most deserving of special recognition
13 for their visionary and compassionate example; now, therefore, be
14 it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
16 Legislature hereby commend all those who have contributed to the
17 establishment and success of the Nueces County Divert Court and
18 extend sincere best wishes to the participants and the many
19 individuals who are affiliated with this exemplary program.